(c) The 'Special 301' Report is a unilateral policy tool of the US Government which reviews the state of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement in its trading partners under Section 182 of the US Trade Act of 1974. There are no global norms prescribed or practiced in this process.

Export of Non-basmati rice from AP

2731. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that in the name of Basmati rice, some rice millers, Export Oriented Units (EOUs), etc., particularly from Andhra Pradesh, are exporting non-Basmati rice to other countries;

(b) whether any order issued by his Ministry for export of rice to other countries during the period of ban to the millers, etc., from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any request from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry requesting not to issue such orders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action that has been contemplated or proposed to contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government, on the request of Non-Basmati Rice EOU's Association of India, Hyderabad, vide a notification No. 59(RE-2008)/2004-09 dated 18th November, 2008 allowed exports of 25,000 tonnes of non-Basmati rice through two 100 % EOUs.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from CM, Andhra Pradesh for review and suspension of export permits given to the 100% EOUs for exporting non-Basmati rice and also not to issue any more permits until the prices of super fine variety to rice stabilises.

(f) The request from CM, Andhra Pradesh is under examination in DGFT.

Impact of slowdown and recession on Indian Exports

2732. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the slowdown in economic growth coupled with recession has impacted India's exports during the last eight months;

(b) whether decline in exports has led to closure of business and job losses and has hit the manufacturing sector, as well as industrial production;

(c) whether Government is thinking of extending interest rate/subsidy scheme ending on 30.9.2009;

(d) whether the Federation of Indian Export organisations has asked for extension of the scheme till 31.03.2012; and

(e) what other suggestions have been given by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and Engineering Export Promotion Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics indicate significant decline in India's merchandise exports during the last few months, primarily on account of global economic slowdown and recession in the developed countries. Job losses have been reported in a few sectors.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) had requested for extension of the Interest Rate subvention scheme beyond 30.9.09. Government has extended the scheme till 31.3.2010.

(e) FIEO and Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) had suggested for certain measures, including inter-alia, extension of DEPB Scheme; zero duty EPCG scheme; continuation, deepening and expansion of incentive schemes; scheme to rebate state level taxes/levies; domestic procurement facility against duty credit scrip; cheaper export credit finance; liberal MDA provisions; extension of interest rate subvention scheme for other sectors like engineering; scheme for promotion of branded products; liberal ECGC cover; introduction of Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) Engineering sector etc.

Export sectors vulnerable to carbon tax

2733. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state which of our export sectors are vulnerable to a carbon tax constraints on exports that may be agreed to in the global climate change talks currently under way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): As the global climate change talks that are currently underway in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) do not include carbon tax on exports in their ambit, vulnerability of any of Indian export sectors to such a carbon tax constraint does not arise.

Effect of sub-standard goods from China

2734. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of regulations the sub-standard goods from China are flooding into the Indian markets;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made to find out the amount of loss that the small Indian manufacturers are facing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts Government is making to curb sub-standard goods from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) All imported goods in India are subject to domestic laws, Rules, Orders, Regulations, technical specifications, environment and safety norms